The Papaya Gang
by Aoki Mitsue
Volume 2
Chapter 10
I was worked on by Lililicious and HotCakes!
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http://www.lililicious.net
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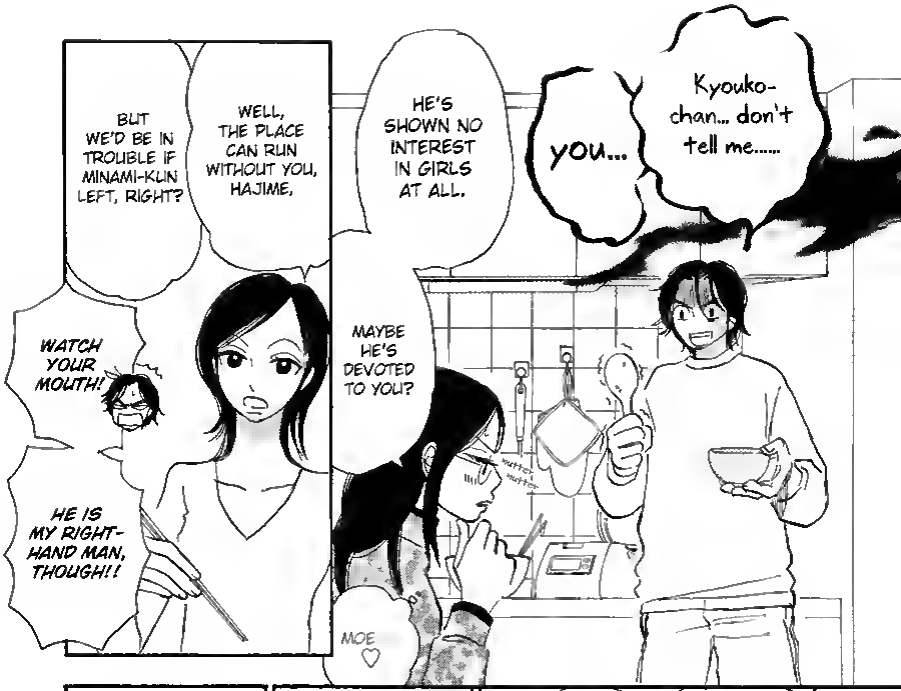
パパイヤ軍団★
Scene 10
SCREECH
GET IN.
IS THAT YOU, MINAMI-KUN?
GRANDMA IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE. BE A GOOD BOY.
WHERE'S MOMMY...?
SHE'LL COME FOR YOU SOON. YOU JUST NEED TO BE A GOOD BOY FOR ME, ALL RIGHT?
MOMMY!!

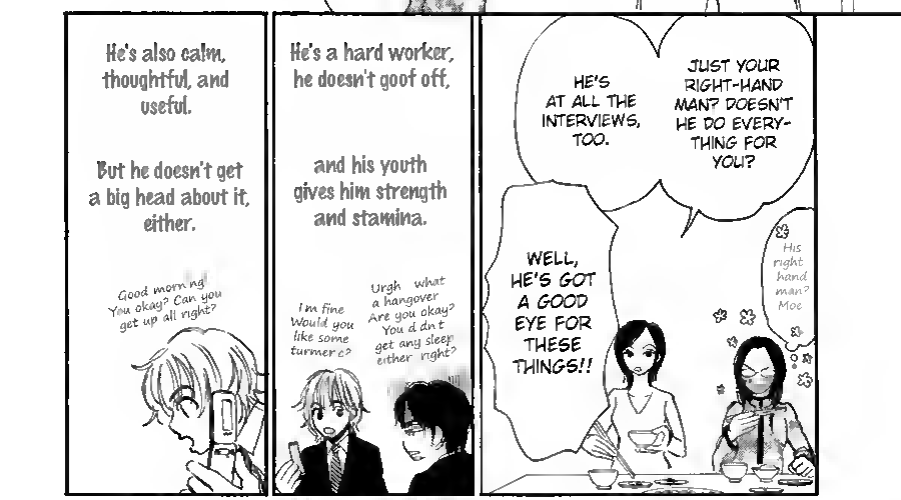
Scene
10
minami-
kun and
the BOSS

Watanabe Minami,
21 years old.

He's been a member of staff
since the club first opened.

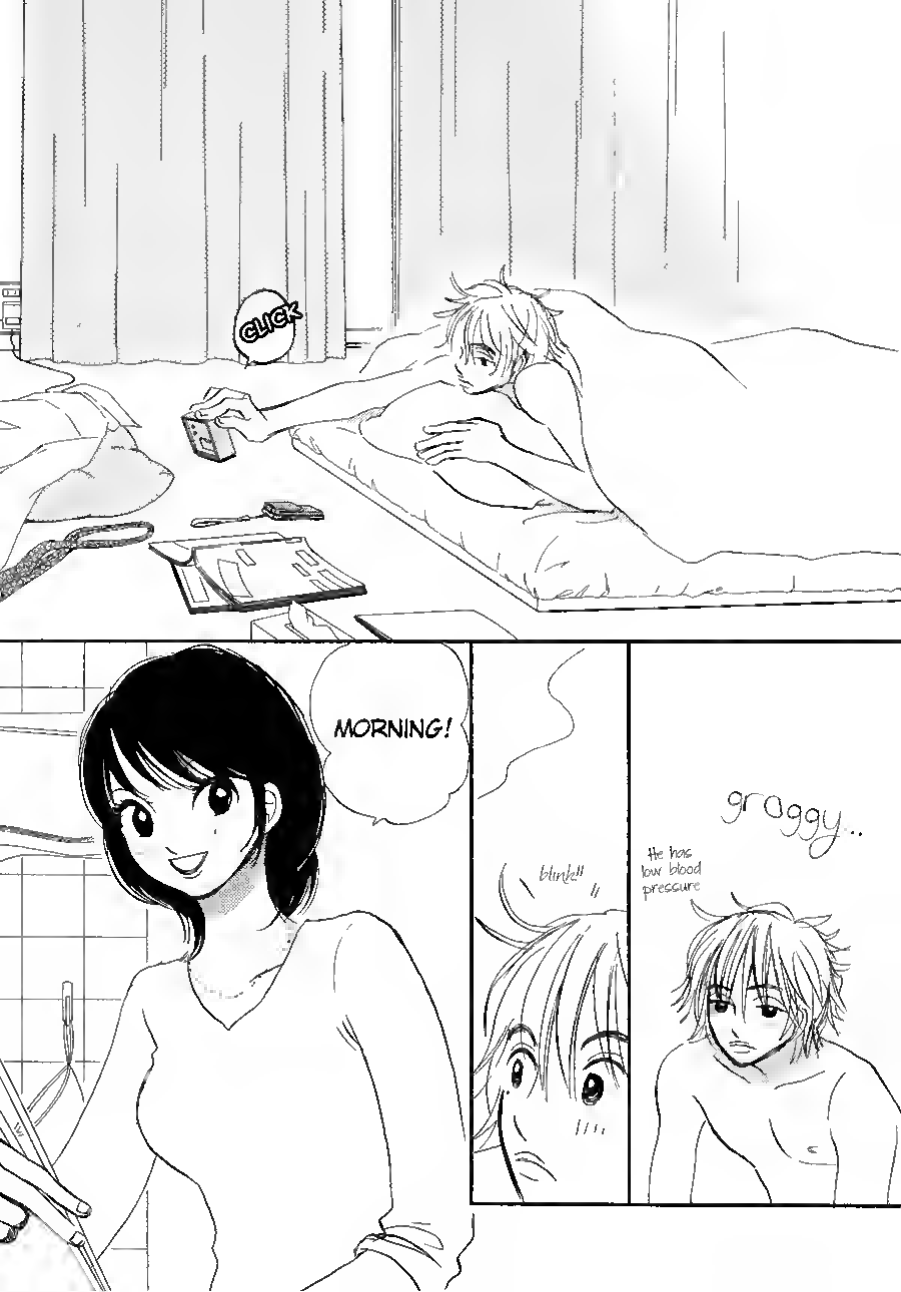
GEEZ, MINAMI... WELL, NOT THAT IT'S YOUR FAULT, BUT...
YOU'RE TOO FRIENDLY WITH THE GIRLS, AREN'T YOU?!
THAT CAUSES TENSIONS!!
AND WHY ARE YOU SO POPULAR, ANYWAY?! I DON'T LIKE IT!!
...MM-HMM...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT LEADING THEM ON?
I'M NOT! I LET THEM DOWN EASY, TOO.
AND WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DATE CO-WORKERS ANYWAY, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF MINAMI-KUN HAS A GIRL-FRIEND?


BUT WE'D BE IN TROUBLE IF MINAMI-KUN LEFT, RIGHT?
WELL, THE PLACE CAN RUN WITHOUT YOU, HAJIME.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
HE IS MY RIGHT-HAND MAN, THOUGH!!
HE'S SHOWN NO INTEREST IN GIRLS AT ALL.
MAYBE HE'S DEVOTED TO YOU?
MOE ♡
Kyouko-chan... don't tell me.....
YOU...

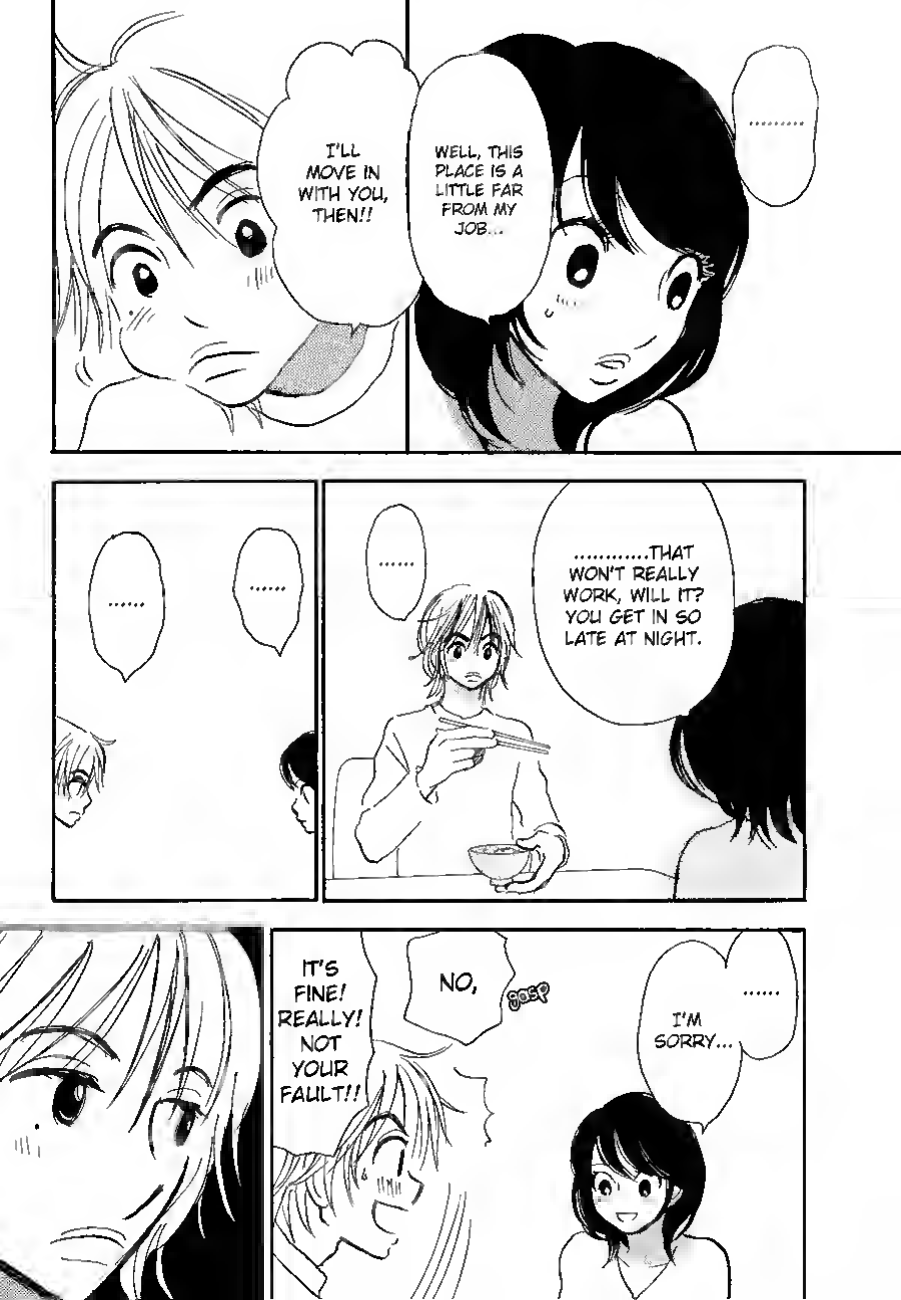

He's also calm, thoughtful, and useful.
But he doesn't get a big head about it, either.
Good morning! You okay? Can you get up all right?
He's a hard worker, he doesn't goof off,
and his youth gives him strength and stamina.
I'm fine. Would you like some turmeric?
Urgh... what a hangover. Are you okay? You didn't get any sleep either, right?
HE'S AT ALL THE INTERVIEWS, TOO.
JUST YOUR RIGHT-HAND MAN? DOESN'T HE DO EVERY-THING FOR YOU?
WELL, HE'S GOT A GOOD EYE FOR THESE THINGS!!
His right hand man? Moe

T/N. Turmeric is used as a hangover remedy in Japan. It's sold in pill form and there is a supplement drink called 'Ukon no Chikara' (The Power of Turmeric).

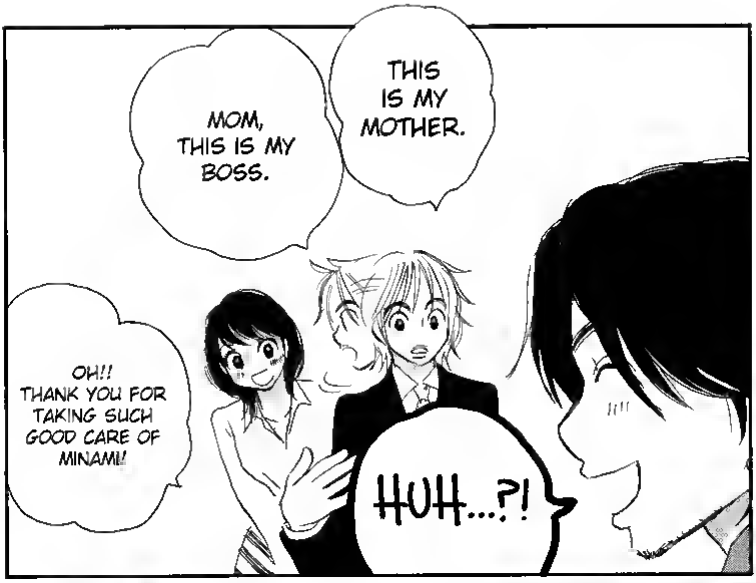
THAT MAKES HIM MORE OPEN TO LISTENING TO THE GIRLS' SIMILAR WOES, AND THEY TRUST HIM, I GUESS...
AND HE WAS RAISED BY HIS GRANDMOTHER, NOT HIS PARENTS, SO HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
KYOUKO-CHAN, PLEASE DON'T DUMP ME!!
HUH? OH? WHA...?!
WHAT WAS THAT? I'M SORRY, I WASN'T LISTENING.
.....
gasp
How can the rest of us compete?!!
DAMN, HE'S PRACTICALLY A SAINT!!
OH!! I'M A LITTLE TALLER, THOUGH!!
BUT HIS FACE IS DEFINITELY SMALLER!!
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP

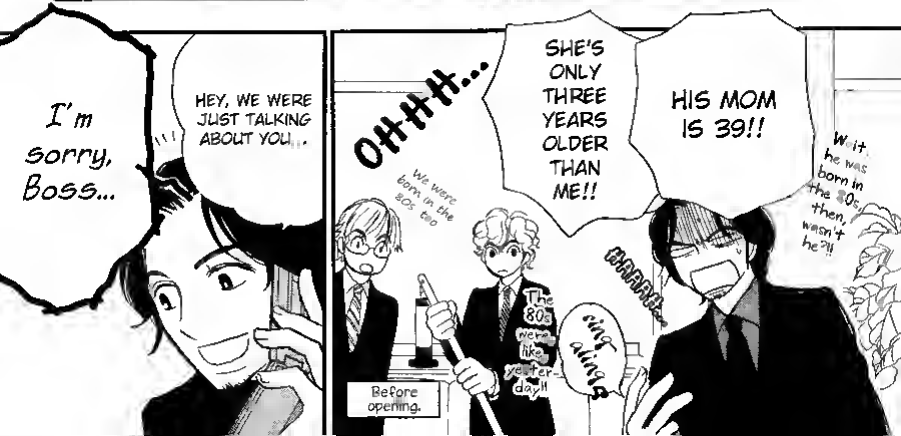

CLICK
MORNING!
blink!!
groggy..
He has low blood pressure

YOU'RE UP? GO WASH YOUR FACE.
OMELETS!!
YUM!! THIS IS GREAT!!
HEY, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I SAID?! ABOUT MOVING IN TOGETHER?!!
HMM?
OH.....
SUSHI!


.....
WELL, THIS PLACE IS A LITTLE FAR FROM MY JOB...
I'LL MOVE IN WITH YOU, THEN!!
.....THAT WON'T REALLY WORK, WILL IT? YOU GET IN SO LATE AT NIGHT.
.....
.....
.....
I'M SORRY...
NO,
gasp
IT'S FINE! REALLY! NOT YOUR FAULT!!

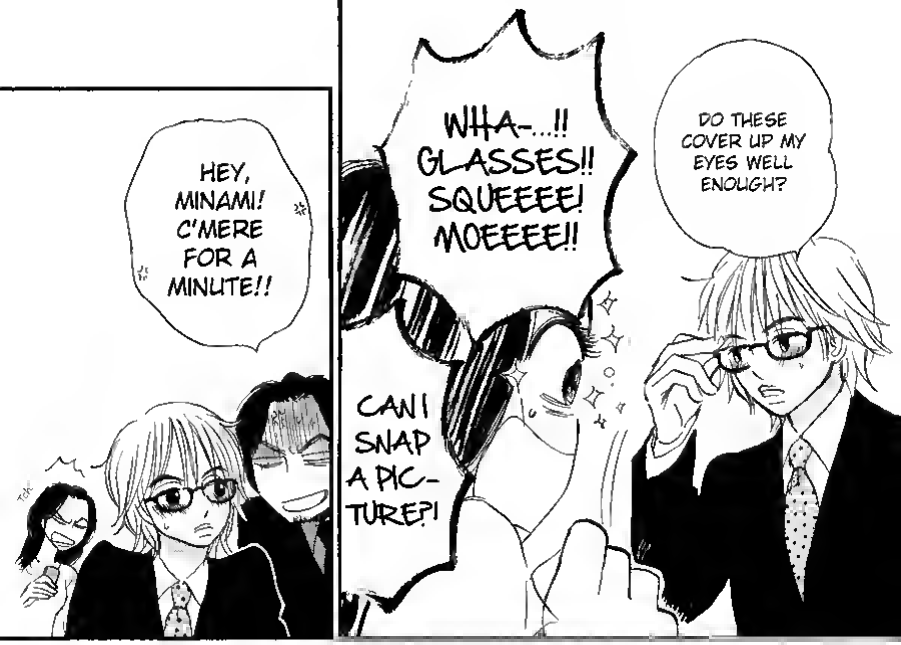
HUH?
MINAMI!
OH!
GOOD MORNING.
C-c-c-can I talk to you for a minute?!
WHAT'S UP?
Is that your girlfriend?! Is it?! She's a knockout!
YEAH, ISN'T SHE PRETTY?


THIS IS MY MOTHER.
MOM, THIS IS MY BOSS.
OH!! THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MINAMI!
HUH...?!


I'm sorry, Boss...
HEY, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU...
OHHH...
We were born in the 80s, too
SHE'S ONLY THREE YEARS OLDER THAN ME!!
HIS MOM IS 39!!
Wait, he was born in the 80s, then, wasn't he?!
The 80s were like yesterday!
Before opening.

I'm sorry to ask at the last minute...
OH? WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEMED FINE EARLIER.
BUT I'M NOT FEELING WELL... WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOOK THE DAY OFF.....?
WHAT?!
HEY, MINAMI'S OUT SICK TODAY!
.....
SNAP
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE THE ICE SCOOP IS? I HAVEN'T SEEN IT AROUND.
I THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PUTTING OUT NEW ASHTRAYS TODAY, BUT...
THE CARD READER DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING RIGHT, BUT THE REPAIRMAN ISN'T COMING...
WHERE DO WE KEEP THE SPARE RECEIPTS?
CALL MINAMI!!
.....
ARE MIKI-CHAN'S BUSINESS CARDS READY YET?
DID YOU PICK UP THE DRY-CLEANING?

SINCE YOU SEEMED TO BE HAVING A ROUGH NIGHT.
I CAME IN ANYWAY...
MINAMI-KUN, YOUR EYES ARE RED!!
GOOD MOR-...
WHOA!
You look like YOU'RE the one who's having a rough night!!
!!
I'M FINE
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
That face !!
WE'LL BE PUTTING OUT THE NEW ASHTRAYS TOMORROW.
THE BUSINESS CARDS SHOULD BE READY TODAY. GO AND FETCH THEM.
I PICKED UP THE DRY-CLE- NING ON MY WAY IN.


DO THESE COVER UP MY EYES WELL ENOUGH?
WHA-...!! GLASSES!! SQUEEEE! MOEEEE!!
CAN I SNAP A PIC-TURE?!
HEY, MINAMI! C'MERE FOR A MINUTE!!

WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M PERFECTLY FINE, I ASSURE YOU...
.....
NO, YOU'RE NOT!!
THERE'S SOMETHING OFF ABOUT YOU!!
SOME-THING YOU CAN'T QUITE HIDE!!
WHA—?!
.....DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH YOUR MOM?
!

SOME-
THING ELSE,
THEN?
.....
NO,
NOT A
FIGHT...
.....
MOM...
THAT
RING...
OH...
RYOU-
KO!!
WELL,
YOU
SEE...
UM...
UH —

MINAMI, THIS IS THE MAN I'M PLANNING TO MARRY.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
?!
HONEY!
SORRY I'M LATE.
AND... HIS COMPANY IS TRANSFERRING HIM TO AMERICA NEXT YEAR..... AND I'D LIKE TO GO WITH HIM.
.....
...WELL,
I KNOW IT SHOULD BE NO BIG DEAL, BUT.....

UM... I'VE WORKED SO HARD TRYING TO GET TO A POINT WHERE I COULD SUPPORT MY MOM, SO I COULD TAKE HER IN.....
BUT NOW...
.....
THIS TOOK THE WIND OUT OF MY SAILS, I GUESS...
.....
BUT YOU'RE HAPPY FOR HER, AREN'T YOU?
YES!!
I AM!
OF COURSE!
I'M HAPPY FOR HER BUT...
...I'M ALL GROWN UP NOW... SO WHY.....

.....
.....WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE SHE'S ABANDONING ME...?
Oh...

He's competent, popular, and cool, and he seems to have a good head on his shoulders,
I-
I'M SORRY ...
BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, HE'S ONLY 21 YEARS OLD.....
HE'S STILL A KID.....
MAYBE HE'S SO POPULAR BECAUSE HE APPEALS TO THE GIRLS' MATERNAL INSTINCTS?
IT'S OKAY.
muss muss
OH!
DON'T MIND ME!! KEEP GOING!!

HUH?
GOOD WORK TODAY!
WANT TO GRAB A BITE, MINAMI?
OKAY!
I'M STILL GROWING...
Yeah.
OH...
HEY... DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE SHORTER THAN ME?!
WHAT?!
WHO COULD RELY ON A DAD LIKE HIM?!!
.....
OH.....
.....SURE...
YOU CAN THINK OF ME AS A FATHER FIGURE IF YOU WANT. YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME!
I'm an adult!! I have to work that angle, instead!!
HEY...